

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1(Currently amended). A computer-implemented method for providing prerequisite checking in a computer system for creating a user-defined, computer-based content object that is generated by the computer system, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored as a plurality of hierarchically related individual content entities in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities ~~and the content object being defined by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object~~, the method comprising the steps of:

defining the computer-based content object by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the computer-based content object,

adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user through a computer interface for the computer-based content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the computer-based content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in each computer-based content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity,

and if so,

automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list ~~without further user intervention beyond~~ in direct response to user interaction initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the computer-based content object ~~in addition to the addition or removal of the selected content entity,~~

wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules, and wherein selection by the user of an entity having prerequisites causes automatic inclusion of all associated prerequisite objects complying with the conditions in the final compilation.

2 - 3(Canceled).

4(Currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim [[3]] 1, in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

5(Currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim [[3]] 1, further comprising the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

6(Currently amended). A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing prerequisite checking in a computer system for creating a user-defined, computer-based content object ~~that is generated by the computer system~~, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored as a plurality of hierarchically related individual content entities in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities ~~and the content object being defined by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object~~, the method comprising the steps of:

defining the computer-based content object by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the computer-based content object,

adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user through a computer interface for the computer-based content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the computer-based content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in each computer-based content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity,

and if so,

automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list ~~without further user intervention beyond~~ in direct response to user interaction initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the computer-based content object ~~in addition to the addition or removal of the selected content entity.~~

wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules, and wherein selection by the user of an entity having prerequisites causes automatic inclusion of all associated prerequisite objects complying with the conditions in the final compilation.

7 - 8(Canceled).

9(Currently amended). The program storage device of claim [[8]] 6, in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, the method further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

10(Currently amended). The program storage device of claim [[8]] 6, wherein the method further comprises the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

11(Currently amended). A system for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a user-defined, computer-based content object that is generated by a computer system, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored as a plurality of hierarchically related individual content entities in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities ~~and the content object being defined by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object~~, the system for providing prerequisite checking comprising:

a computer system including:

means for defining the computer-based content object by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the computer-based content object,

means for adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user through a computer interface for the computer-based content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the computer-based content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in each computer-based content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

means for examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity, and

means for automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list ~~without further user intervention beyond~~ in direct response to user interaction initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the computer-based content object ~~in addition to the addition or removal of the selected content entity.~~

wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules, and wherein selection by the user of an entity having prerequisites causes automatic inclusion of all associated prerequisite objects complying with the conditions in the final compilation.

12 - 13(Canceled).

14(Currently amended). The system of claim [[13]] 11, further comprising means for reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite.

15(Currently amended). The system of claim [[13]] 11, further comprising means for rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.